PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a list of sectors capable of communication with a subscriber station in a communication system, comprising:

receiving a request to remove a sector from the subscriber station's list;

determining a reverse link quality metric from the subscriber station at the sector; [[and]]

retaining the sector in the subscriber station's list if said determined reverse link quality metric is sufficient; and

sending the retained sector a data request message on a data request channel.

2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said retaining the sector in the subscriber station's list if said determined reverse link quality metric is sufficient comprises:

declining said received request to remove a sector from the subscriber station's list.

3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said retaining the sector in the subscriber station's list if said determined reverse link quality metric is sufficient comprises:

determining a forward link quality metric at which a rate of data can be decoded; and

setting a forward link quality metric threshold for the sector in accordance with said determined forward link quality metric.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said determining a forward link quality metric at which a rate of data can be decoded comprises:

determining a forward link quality metric at which a minimum rate of data can be decoded.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising removing [[a]] <u>the</u> sector from the subscriber station list if said determined reverse link quality metric is insufficient.

6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

determining whether an imbalance exists when the sector is retained in the subscriber station's list; and

transmitting from at least the sector with the highest forward link quality metric a power control command determined in accordance with the highest reverse link quality metric if the imbalance exists.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said determining whether an imbalance exists comprises:

measuring at each sector belonging to the list reverse link quality metrics of a subscriber station;

determining at each sector belonging to the list a quality metric of a forward link transmitted by the sector to the subscriber station; and

declaring [[an]] the imbalance if:

the forward link quality metric of one of the plurality of sectors is greater than a forward link quality of the rest of the plurality sectors by a first threshold; and

said measured reverse link quality metric at the one of the plurality sectors is less than said measured reverse link quality at the rest of the plurality sectors by a second threshold.

8. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the communication system comprises the communication system in accordance with IS-856 standard.

9. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the communication system comprises the communication system in accordance with IS-95 standard.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the communication system comprises the communication system in accordance with Wideband Code-Division-Multiple-Access (WCDMA) standard.

11. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the communication system comprises the communication system in accordance with IS-2000 standard.

12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the communication system comprises the communication system in accordance with JSTD-008 standard.

13. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

determining a forward link quality metric from a sector; and

communicating from the subscriber station a request to remove the sector from the subscriber station list if said determined forward link quality metric is insufficient.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for managing a list of sectors capable of communication with a subscriber station in a communication system, comprising:

a receiver configured to:

receive a request to remove a sector from the subscriber station's list;

a processor communicatively coupled to said receiver; and

a storage medium communicatively coupled to said processor and containing a set of instructions executable by the processor to:

determine a reverse link quality metric from the subscriber station at the sector; and

retain the sector in the subscriber station list if said determined reverse link quality metric is sufficient.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said set of instructions executable by the processor to retain the sector in the subscriber station's list if said determined reverse link quality metric is sufficient comprises a set of instructions to:

decline said received request to remove a sector from the subscriber station's list.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said set of instructions executable by the processor to retain the sector in the subscriber station's list if said determined reverse link quality metric is sufficient comprises a set of instructions to:

determine a forward link quality metric for the sector at which a rate of data can be decoded; and

set a forward link quality metric threshold in accordance with said determined forward link quality metric.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14, further comprising:

a second receiver configured to measure a forward link quality metric; and

a second transmitter communicatively coupled to said second receiver configured to communicate from the subscriber station to a ~~sector~~ request to remove the sector from the subscriber station list if said determined forward link quality metric is insufficient.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14, further comprising instructions to remove ~~removing a~~ the sector from the subscriber station list if said determined reverse link quality metric is insufficient.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein said set of instructions executable by the processor comprises a set of instructions to:

determine whether an imbalance exists when the sector is retained in the subscriber station's list; and if the imbalance exists then:

provide to ~~at least~~ the sector with the highest forward link quality metric a power control command determined in accordance with the highest reverse link quality metric.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein said set of instructions executable by the processor determine whether an imbalance exists comprises a set of instructions to:

determine at each sector belonging to the list reverse link quality metrics of a subscriber station;

determine at each sector belonging to the list a quality metric of a forward link transmitted by the sector to the subscriber station; and

declare [[an]] the imbalance if:

the forward link quality metric of one of the plurality of sectors is greater than a forward link quality of the rest of the plurality sectors by a first threshold; and

said measured reverse link quality metric at the one of the plurality sectors is less than said measured reverse link quality at the rest of the plurality sectors by a second threshold.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the communication system comprises the communication system in accordance with IS-856 standard.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the communication system comprises the communication system in accordance with IS-95 standard.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the communication system comprises the communication system in accordance with Wideband Code-Division-Multiple-Access (WCDMA) standard.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the communication system comprises the communication system in accordance with IS-2000 standard.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the communication system comprises the communication system in accordance with JSTD-008 standard.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for power controlling a subscriber station, comprising:

measuring at a plurality of sectors belonging to the subscriber station's list a reverse link quality metrics of the subscriber station;

determining at each of the sectors a quality metric of a forward link transmitted by the sector to the subscriber station;

determining an imbalance in accordance with said measured reverse link quality metrics, and said determined quality metrics of forward links; and

transmitting from the sector with the ~~higher~~ highest forward link quality metric a power control command determined in accordance with the ~~higher~~ highest reverse link quality metric if the imbalance exists.

27. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 26 wherein said determining an imbalance in accordance with said measured reverse link quality metrics, and said determined quality metrics of forward links comprises:

declaring [[an]] the imbalance if:

the forward link quality metric of one of the plurality of sectors is greater than a forward link quality of the rest of the plurality sectors by a first threshold; and

said measured reverse link quality metric at the one of the plurality sectors is less than said measured reverse link quality at the rest of the plurality sectors by a second threshold.

28. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 26 wherein said transmitting from the sector with the highest forward link quality metric a power control command determined in accordance with the highest reverse link quality metric if the imbalance exists comprises:

transmitting from the sector with the highest forward link quality metric a power control command determined in accordance with the highest reverse link quality metric if the imbalance exists for a pre-determined time.

29. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 26 wherein said measuring at a plurality of sectors belonging to the subscriber station's list a reverse link quality metrics of the subscriber station comprises:

measuring at [[a]] two of sectors belonging to the subscriber station's list a reverse link quality metrics of the subscriber station.

30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for power controlling a subscriber station, comprising:

a processor communicatively coupled to said receiver; and

a storage medium communicatively coupled to said processor and containing a set of instructions executable by the processor to:

determine at each sector belonging to the list reverse link quality metrics of a subscriber station;

determine at each sector belonging to the list a quality metric of a forward link transmitted by the sector to the subscriber station; [[and]]

determine an imbalance in accordance with said measured reverse link quality metrics, and said determined quality metrics of forward links: and

provide to ~~at least~~ the sector with the highest forward link quality metric a power control command determined in accordance with the highest reverse link quality metric.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30 wherein said set of instructions executable by the processor to determine imbalance in accordance with said measured reverse link quality metrics, and said determined quality metrics of forward links comprises a set of instructions to:

declaring [[an]] the imbalance if:

the forward link quality metric of one of the plurality of sectors is greater than a forward link quality of the rest of the plurality sectors by a first threshold; and

said measured reverse link quality metric at the one of the plurality of sectors is less than said measured reverse link quality at the rest of the plurality sectors by a second threshold.

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30 wherein said set of instructions to provide to ~~at least~~ the sector with the highest forward link quality metric a power

control command determined in accordance with the highest reverse link quality metric comprises a set of instruction to:

provide to ~~at least~~ the sector with the highest forward link quality metric a power control command determined in accordance with the highest reverse link quality metric if the imbalance exists for a pre-determined time.

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30 wherein said list <u>includes</u> ~~consists of~~ two sectors.